REMARKS

Claims 20, 21, 24, 26, 34 and 36 are pending in the present application.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed February 4, 2010. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 21, 24, 26, 34 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicant has amended claims 20, 26, 34 and 36. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a): (1) claims 20, 21 and 24 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,852,501 issued to Maehara ("Maehara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,928 issued to Toyomura ("Toyomura") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,944 issued to Onuki ("Onuki") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,473 issued to Kamanuma ("Kamanuma"), (2) claim 26 as being unpatentable over Maehara in view of Toyomura further in view of Kamanuma, (3) claim 34 as being unpatentable over Maehara in view of Toyomura further in view of Onuki further in view of Kamanuma further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0038989 filed by Yokota ("Yokota"), and (4) claim 36 as being unpatentable over Maehara in view of Toyomura further in view of Kamanuma further in view of Yokota. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the following reasons.

Maehara discloses an image reader with an automatic document feeding (ADF) unit (Abstract), a document tray (element 13), etc. Maehara, however, does not disclose that the leading edge is detected, by a first sensor (i.e., a

retractable flag), before the leading edge reaches a roller and the trailing edge is detected, by a second sensor (i.e., an optical sensor), when the trailing edge passes through the roller.

Toyomura discloses that the initial setting value of the transport speed is set to a reading speed for the monochrome image copy and that the transport speed is reduced if the judgment result of the copy attribution by the CPU indicates the color image copy. In other words, Toyomura discloses that the initial value is set to a reading speed for reading monochrome image copy and it reduces to a lower speed if it is determined that the image copy to be read is a color image color (Col. 10, lines 33-55). Toyomura discloses the control of a transport speed depending on the type image copy (i.e., monochrome or color). Toyomura further discloses that when the leading edge of the copy transported is detected by the copy edge detection sensor, the transmitting of the drive force to the transport roller and the reverse roller is stopped. The leading edge of the copy is used for a start timing of the reading of an image. When the trailing edge of the copy is detected by the sensor and the sensor detects a next copy, the transport roller and the reverse roller is rotated to start the transportation of the next copy set on the copy tray. However, unlike the present invention, Toyomura does not disclose that the leading edge is detected, by a first sensor (i.e., a retractable flag), before the leading edge reaches a roller, and the trailing edge is detected, by a second sensor (i.e., an optical sensor), when the trailing edge passes through the roller.

Onuki discloses an operation panel which composes a copy start key, a numeric keypad, and various input keys including a manual mode switch key for selecting the monochrome copy mode or the color copy mode and an auto mode switch key for automatically selecting the monochrome copy mode or the color

copy mode depending on whether a read document is a color document or not (Col. 8, lines 48-63). No where in Onuki that discloses that the leading edge is detected, by a first sensor (i.e., a retractable flag), before the leading edge reaches a roller and the trailing edge is detected, by a second sensor (i.e., an optical sensor), when the trailing edge passes through the roller.

Kamanuma discloses that an original sheet is subjected to a read operation at a velocity V04 of the read rollers, the main motor is driven at a velocity V03. At least before the leading end of the original sheet reaches the discharge rollers, the discharge rollers is driven at a velocity V09. On the other hand, when the trailing end of the original sheet is detected, an electromagnetic clutch is turned on and to change the velocity of the main motor to the velocity V01 (Col. 16, lines 37-64). However, this is not the same as the leading edge is detected, by a first sensor (i.e., a retractable flag), before the leading edge reaches a roller and the trailing edge is detected, by a second sensor (i.e., an optical sensor), when the trailing edge passes through the roller as is claimed in the present invention.

Yokota discloses that in a sheet original feeding portion, there are disposed an original feed detecting sensor and an original edge detecting sensor. The original edge detecting sensor is adapted to detect the passage of the leading edge and trailing edge of the sheet original. The detection signals are adapted to be used for the control of the timing of reading. Yokota does not disclose that the leading edge is detected, by a first sensor (i.e., a retractable flag), before the leading edge reaches a roller and the trailing edge is detected, by a second sensor (i.e., an optical sensor), when the trailing edge passes through the roller.

However, Maehara, Toyomura, Onuki, Kamanuma, and Yokota, taken alone or in any combination, do not disclose, suggest, or render obvious the leading edge is detected, by a first sensor (i.e., a retractable flag), before the leading edge reaches a roller and the trailing edge is detected, by a second sensor (i.e., an optical sensor), when the trailing edge passes through the roller.

This aspect of the invention is supported in the specification on page 16, paragraph [0063], Fig. 7, and is recited in amended claims 20 and 26.

Therefore, Applicant believes that independent claims 20, 26 and their respective dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

April 27, 2010 /Caroline Do /

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